

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, line 15, with the following replacement paragraph:

-- Figure 6 is an alignment of the sequences of 5'OT-EST from rat (SEQ ID NO: 2), human (SEQ ID NO: 4) and mouse (SEQ ID NO: 6) sources. The predicted deleted form in JP17 is represented by SEQ ID NO: 30. --

Please replace the paragraph at page 19, lines 20-29 with the following replacement paragraph:

-- The invention accordingly specifically includes nucleic acids encoding mutants of 5'OT-EST, as defined above. Such nucleic acids may be used for all the purposes identified above in relation to wild-type 5'OT-EST nucleic acids. Particularly preferred are nucleic acids encoding 5'OT-EST-xdel, which preferably have the sequence
ATGTTGCGGGCTTTGAACCGCCTGGCCGCGCGGCCCCGGGGGCCAGCCCCCAACCCT
GCTCCTTCTGCCCCGTGCGCGGCCACGGCCCCGCTCATTCTCGGCTCCTTTTTCCTCG
CAGGATACG (SEQ ID NO: 31, see SEQ ID NO: 7), or an equivalent sequence which encodes the same polypeptide having regard to the degeneracy of the nucleic acid code, or a sequence substantially homologous thereto or complementary thereto. In 5'OT-EST-xdel exon x is deleted, and exons y and z are out of frame and therefore not translated. --